

October 25, 1993, now abandoned.--

✓ IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 3 and 10-22 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) A composition comprising an essentially homogenous population of poly(D-L-lactide-co-glycolide) (PLGA) polymer microspheres encapsulating an aqueous antigen, wherein in said population

(a) the volume of aqueous antigen incorporated into the polymer is equal to or less than 1 milliliter per 3 grams of polymer;

(b) the ratio of lactide to glycolide in the polymer is from about 100:[1] 0 to 50:50 [1:100] weight percent;

(c) the inherent viscosity of PLGA polymers used in the microspheres is about 0.1 to 1.2 dL/g;

(d) the median diameter of the microspheres is from about 20 to 100  $\mu$ m; and

(e) the antigen is released from the microspheres in a triphasic pattern characterized by a first phase, wherein about 0.5 to 30 percent [95%] of the antigen is released from the microspheres over a period of about 1 day [in an initial burst], a second phase, beginning at the completion of the first phase wherein less than 10 percent of the antigen [about 0 to 50%] is released from the microspheres over a period of between about 30 [1] to 180 days, and a third phase beginning at the completion of the second phase wherein the remaining antigen is released from the microspheres over a period of about 10 to 30 days [in a second burst after about 1 to 180 days].

4. (reiterated) The composition of claim 1 wherein the median diameter of the microspheres is about 30  $\mu$ m.

5. (reiterated) The composition of claim 1 further comprising an adjuvant.

6. (reiterated) The composition of claim 5 wherein the adjuvant is encapsulated in the PLGA microspheres.

7. (reiterated) The composition of claim 5 wherein the adjuvant is coencapsulated with the antigen in the microspheres.

8. (reiterated) The composition of claim 5 wherein the adjuvant is QS21.

9. (reiterated) The composition of claim 1 further comprising a soluble antigen.

Please add the following new claims:

--23. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the second phase is over a period of about 30 days.

24. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the second phase is over a period of about 60 days.

25. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the second phase is over a period of about 90 days.

26. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the second phase is over a period of about 120 days.

27. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the second phase is over a period of about 180 days.--